

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD  
ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**MAYOR:** Louie A. Trujillo

**COUNCILORS:** Michael Montoya  
David Romero  
Elaine Rodriquez- *Absent*  
David Ulibarri, Jr.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Leo Maestas, City Manager  
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk  
Scott Aaron, City Attorney  
Antonio Salazar, Sergeant at Arms

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Trujillo called the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Trujillo commended all healthcare workers for their hard work and asked for prayers for those in the community dealing with the virus and also for those who had lost loved ones. Mayor Trujillo asked to pray for the family of Robert Ortiz, who had recently passed away and recognized him as a great businessman in the community for many years.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked if all were in favor, all Councilors were in favor.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

City Clerk Fresquez read a public input received from Michael Martinez via email in regards to concerns of the appointment of Arnold Lopez as City of Las Vegas Public Works Director.

## **MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

- Reporting on the resignation of the Marketing Committee

Mayor Trujillo stated that he believed the resignation should be brought to Council for approval although it had not and advised he was accepting the resignation of the Marketing Committee which included the following members: Georgina Ortega Angel, Stacey K. Romero, Dr. Eric Romero, Margo Segura, Jake Erickson, Veronica Black, Kenneth Bachicha and Gayle Howser. He advised this was on behalf of Margo Segura who had presented at last week's City Council meeting.

## **COUNCILORS' REPORTS**

Councilor Romero noted for the record that only the Mayor and Council could remove a committee, and that they had no authority to disband on their own. He advised that an RFP had never been brought to the Council by the Marketing Committee and that he had never been invited to a committee meeting.

Councilor Montoya informed of the forum held by City Attorney Aaron and City Clerk Fresquez that had taken place today from 9:00 to 11:00, regarding the 19 amendments being proposed in the coming election. He stated it was advertised, inviting the public to bring questions and concerns although no one came in and there would be one more forum held in the Council Chambers, Monday at 2:00 to 4:00. He thanked Mayor Trujillo, City Attorney Aaron and City Clerk Fresquez for their transparency.

Councilor Montoya advised they attended the Governor's summit last Friday and there would be state funding coming in for municipalities that would go to different projects.

Councilor Montoya stated he was very concerned about the high number of Covid cases in the community and recommended City Manager Maestas to look into shutting down the Recreation Center for a period of time. He informed that they have 400 kids participating in the YABL program and the facility is full during games and that many teams have had team members testing positive. He spoke on several other cities and the protocols being taken, he advised that youth programs were very important although it was time to take precautionary measures.

Mayor Trujillo asked City Manager Maestas to meet with the Recreation Department Director to discuss this matter and to brief them the next day on the decision made.

City Manager Maestas advised he had scheduled a meeting the next day with the Recreation Department Supervisor, he had asked him to look into other municipalities regarding sports event gatherings and would discuss this further with him.

Councilor Romero informed that Councilor Rodriguez could not make it to the meeting tonight, she was lobbying in Santa Fe with a group of students on behalf of the City. He relayed that she had some calls and emails pertaining to positions not opening up to the public, in particular the new public works director.

### **POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Police Chief Antonio Salazar presented in detail the Police Chief's Report for the month of December 2021.

Mayor Trujillo informed that the San Jose graveyard had been vandalized and he asked for more police patrol in the area. He advised they were going to meet on Tuesday to discuss moving forward aggressively with narcotics enforcement and of the three budgeted narcotics agents positions.

Councilor Romero asked in regards to the data given from the Police report, if there could be more specificity regarding grams for each case and if the police report could be added to the City's website under their department for public access.



Police Chief Salazar informed that the number of grams reported were from each encounter, he would look into adjusting the report to inform accordingly by encounter and getting that information on the City's website.

Mayor Trujillo reiterated they would be moving aggressively with narcotics enforcement, working closely with other enforcement agencies and cracking down on drug trade in the community. He stated they would be addressing the public later regarding narcotics enforcement.

Councilor Montoya again requested that burglary accounts be added to the monthly police report and recommended that Council look into a possible tax incentive for residents who have cameras that would help to deter crime.

Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. asked Chief Salazar if it would be possible to move cameras in the area of Montezuma and Romero streets due to that area experiencing many drivers running stop signs.

Police Chief Salazar advised he would look into moving cameras to the area, as long as there was a power source there.

Councilor Romero recommended the Council give direction to move forward in regards to putting in place the ordinance for Speed Vans.

Discussion took place on several camera options that were being considered by the Police Department regarding the speed tracking system.

### **FINANCE REPORT**

Finance Director Jesus Baquera presented the Finance Report for the month ending December 31, 2021 reporting the General Fund revenue at 53%, expenditures at 42% and a surplus of \$716,454. Enterprise Funds revenue at 43%, expenditures at 35% and a surplus of \$950,047. He reported the Recreation Department revenue at 31%, expenditures at 23% and a surplus of \$118,183. Lodger's Tax revenue at 62%, expenditures at 34% and a surplus of \$123,418.

Mayor Trujillo asked for an interpretation of the Finance Report from Mr. Baquera.

Finance Director Baquera stated that the General Fund showed that the City would be at a higher revenue than originally thought and the Enterprise Fund expenditures would catch up with revenue due to the projected gas prices going up this season. He advised that he did not have any reason for concern regarding the report although he did state that Lodgers Tax revenue was high and it would eventually be spent during the upcoming warmer months.

Brief discussion took place regarding Lodgers Tax allowable costs being removed and the Finance Committee requesting to meet with Finance Director Baquera and the need for more detailed documentation.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Phillip Martinez, President of Las Vegas San Miguel Chamber of Commerce presented a lengthy detailed quarterly report.

Lengthy discussion and questions took place regarding the importance of nonprofits reporting to the Council their scope of work, acknowledgement of the Chamber of Commerce attending many community functions, funding application approvals and the collaboration between the City and County in regards to the golf course.

Mayor Trujillo took the opportunity to remind the Council that this was a 15 minute presentation although they were at 25 minutes with this one and asked that they keep their comments and questions succinct.

Councilors Romero, Montoya and Ulibarri, Jr. all commended the Chamber of Commerce members for their hard work and dedication to the community.

Michael Peranteau, Executive Director of MainStreet de Las Vegas and Reina Fernandez, MainStreet Board President presented a lengthy detailed presentation regarding the scope of work for 2021 and 2022 via zoom.

Councilor Romero expressed his concern regarding this presentation and asked if in the future they could stick with the basics of the scope of work and asked if any projects have not been completed that they follow the process of amendments.



Councilor Montoya asked questions regarding the coordination of downtown cleanups, the property on railroad (gardening project).

Michael Peranteau: *non audible*.

Councilor Montoya asked where they were planning to get the water for this project.

Michael Peranteau advised that they were working on that.

Councilor Montoya asked City Manager Maestas for an update on the Railroad District (Great Blocks Project) and stated that City Manager Maestas had a big part in the City receiving funding for this project.

City Manager Maestas advised that it had gone out for bid and it had been awarded, they were processing the notice to proceed and that there had been some thought of having a ribbon cutting or groundbreaking ceremony and inviting Cabinet Secretary Alicia Keyes with the state's Economic Development.

Mayor Trujillo asked Mr. Peranteau if he would please make it a point to invite him to their next MainStreet meeting and advised him he had issues regarding streetscape furniture, affordable housing and Project Lead.

Mr. Peranteau advised he would provide the Governing Body a schedule for all upcoming MainStreet meetings for the year.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Request approval of Resolution 22-05, budget adjustment in the 2021-2022 fiscal year Budget.

Finance Director Jesus Baquera advised that the budget adjustment will include a revenue and expense increase to Fund 101 General Fund in the amount of \$101,200.00. A revenue and expense increase Fund 216 Streets in the amount of \$26,675. A revenue and expense increase to Fund 433 Airport Taxiway in the amount of \$23,463.00 and a revenue and expense increase to Fund 282 Senior Center in the amount of \$6,000.00.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution 22-05, budget adjustment in the 2021-2022 fiscal year Budget. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Romero	Yes	Michael Montoya	Yes
David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Elaine Rodriquez	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Montoya clarified that this item did go before the Finance Committee and recommended for approval.

Mayor Trujillo requested from City Clerk Fresquez to state the approval from the Finance Committee on the meeting agendas.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilor Romero made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Michael Montoya	Yes
David Romero	Yes	Elaine Rodriquez	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Romero made a motion to return to Regular Session and advised that only matters stated in the motion were discussed and no action was taken. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Michael Montoya	Yes
David Romero	Yes	Elaine Rodriquez	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

2. Request approval to appoint Arnold Lopez as Public Works Director.

City Manager Maestas advised that as per City Charter, Section 5.07. Departments C. The City manager shall appoint department directors, subject to approval by the Governing Body.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve to appoint Arnold Lopez as Public Works Director. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call.

Councilor Montoya asked City Manager Leo Maestas if this was his recommendation.

City Manager Maestas informed it was his recommendation.

Councilor Montoya stated for the public, "*City Charter, Section 5.07. Departments C. The City manager shall appoint department directors, subject to approval by the Governing Body.*"

Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Michael Montoya	Yes
David Romero	Yes	Elaine Rodriquez	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Mayor Trujillo welcomed and congratulated Mr. Arnold Lopez to the City of Las Vegas as Public Works Director.

3. Request approval of a salary increase of sixty two cents (\$.062) to the regular hourly rate of pay for all non-union bargaining unit employees who have successfully completed a 6 month probationary period, to include part-time employees with at least one year of continuous employment with the City of Las Vegas.



City Manager Leo Maestas advised that the proposed increase is commensurate with the increase to AFSCME. Contract employees and all other Union employees will not be included in the increase; their contracts are negotiated at a separate time. Fiscal impact: Salaries - \$77,000.00, Fringe Benefits - \$23,000.00.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve a salary increase of sixty two cents (\$.062) to the regular hourly rate of pay for all non-union bargaining unit employees who have successfully completed a 6 month probationary period, to include part-time employees with at least one year of continuous employment with the City of Las Vegas. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael Montoya	Yes	David Romero	Yes
David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Elaine Rodriquez	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

### **ADJOURN**

Councilor Romero made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Trujillo asked if all were in favor of adjournment. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

  
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Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:

  
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Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk